

Chief I would like to nominate Firefighter Jake Van Sickler for Firefighter of the Quarter.

Van Sickler has been with department for seven years now and I have been able to see him advance his skillset both physically and educationally. Van Sickler has proven to be a positive attribute to our department portraying an encouraging attitude and an eagerness to teach and pass on knowledge.

Jake started with COGS as a seasonal Lifeguard working hand-in-hand with the Fire Department. Jake has excelled in all attributes, and in areas that he may be lacking he puts in the work until he masters them. I have worked with Jake for several years as his Supervisor. He has always been someone I know I can count on to carry out a task without having to give a second thought to it after it has been assigned. Jake not only seeks excellence in the physical aspect of his career but also in the educational mindset as well. Jake has progressed through the years and has been operating as a Paramedic five years now and has within the last year obtained his Tactical Paramedicine Certificate through the International Board of Specialty Certifications, which allows him to operate on the Gulf Shores SWAT Team as a medical provider.

Jake continually has a positive attitude regardless of the situations he is put in. I have seen Jake on countless occasions take the time out to educate those both in the general public and on our department. I have seen Jake sincerely take the time to assist those who are struggling with medical classes until they were able to obtain a better grasp of the subject matter. Jake is also on the Departments EMS Q/A committee. Jake has taken this on to both better the medical care our department provides as well assisting others in improving their medical skills. Jake is one of the few Acting Officers we have on B Shift and on several occasions is put in the position where he is functioning as both the Acting Officer and the Paramedic on the Engine. As an Acting Officer I have seen Jake progress as a leader and an individual others on the Department look up too.

Jake Van Sickler is a positive role model to fellow employees. Jake Van Sickler employs the moral and ethical characteristics of the Core Values set forth in our Department. I believe Jake Van Sickler is well suited to receive the recognition of Firefighter of the Quarter.

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